

Message Text

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6174
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 02599

FROM M. FALCO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SNAR,PK
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PAKISTAN NARCOTIC CONTROL BOARD
(PNCB) CHAIRMAN RAOOF ALI

REF: ISLAMABAD 1557

1. DISCUSSION AT FEBRUARY 16 MEETING WITH PNCB CHAIRMAN
RAOOF ALI WAS CONGENIAL, QUITE OPEN, AND INFORMATIVE RE-
GARDING PAKISTAN'S NARCOTICS CONTROL PROBLEMS AND, BILA-
TERAL AND MULTILATERAL EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THEM.

2. HAROIN LABORATORIES. USING REFTTEL AS GUIDANCE, I EX-
PRESSED STRONG USG CONCERN OVER PAKISTAN'S FAILURE TO MOVE
AGAINST THE LABORATORIES IDENTIFIED IN THE NORTHWEST FRONT-
IER PROVINCES (NWFP). RAOOF ALI, WHO WAS WITH GENERAL ZIA
WHEN AMBASSADOR HUMMEL FIRST RAISED THE LAB ISSUE ON DECEM-
BER 30, APPEARED TO SHARE OUR CONCERN. HE NOTED THAT ZIA
INSTRUCTED HIM TO HAVE A JANUARY 27 MEETING ABOUT THE LAB-
ORATORIES WITH THE THEN NEWLY APPOINTED MILITARY COMMANDER
OF THE NWFP. DESPITE WHAT ALI DESCRIBED AS HIS PRESSING
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HARD FOR PROMPT ACTION, THE COMMANDER INSISTED THAT LOGIS-
TICAL DIFFICULTIES WOULD REQUIRE 10 TO 30 DAYS OF PREPARA-
TION PRIOR TO ANY OPERATION. ALI SEEMED TO THINK THESE
DIFFICULTIES WERE NOT SO GREAT BUT HAD OBVIOUSLY EXHAUSTED
THE LIMITS OF HIS OWN ABILITY TO FORCE THE COMMANDER TO
TAKE ACTION. ALI EXPRESSED AT THIS POINT HIS STRONG HOPE
THAT DR. BOURNE AND I WOULD VISIT PAKISTAN IN LATE APRIL

TO REINFORCE GREAT USG INTEREST IN NARCOTICS CONTROL AND TO ENABLE US TO LEARN FIRST-HAND THE PROBLEMS PAKISTAN FACES.

3. UNFDAC PROJECT. WHEN ASKED HOW THE BUNER PROJECT WAS PROGRESSING, CHAIRMAN ALI SAID THAT DELAYS IN APPROPRIATING PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT (GOP) COUNTERPART FUNDS HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS. BECAUSE OF ZIA'S PERSONAL SUPPORT, ALI WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE REQUIRED MONEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE UPON HIS RETURN TO ISLAMABAD, AND THAT THE PROJECT WOULD THEN MOVE AHEAD. IN EXPLAINING WHY HE HAD DELAYED WORK ON THE PROJECT, HE NOTED THE NEED FOR HIS OWN GOVERNMENT TO MAKE MAINTENANCE FUNDS AVAILABLE SO THAT WORK PERFORMED THROUGH THE UNFDAC PROJECT WOULD NOT FALL INTO DISREPAIR. ALI OBSERVED THAT THE BUNER PROJECT WOULD AFFECT ONLY A THIRD OF PAKISTAN'S ESTIMATED 200 TON ANNUAL OPIUM PRODUCTION, AND THAT A DROP IN THAT AREA'S PRODUCTION WOULD BE MADE UP BY INCREASES IN OTHER REGIONS. TO PREVENT SUCH INCREASES, ALI STATED THAT GENERAL ZIA RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR A COORDINATED COUNTRYWIDE MASTERPLAN FOR REPLACING OPIUM CULTIVATION IN ALL TRIBAL AREAS.

4. US-PAKISTAN BILATERAL PROGRAMS. IN RESPONSE TO MY OBSERVATION THAT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR US-PAKISTAN BILATERAL PROGRAMS OFTEN GO UNUSED, RAOOF ALI STATED HE WAS UNWILLING TO USE AVAILABLE US FUNDS UNLESS THEY COULD BE WELL CONFIDENTIAL

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SPENT AS PART OF AN OVERALL EFFECTIVE GOP PLAN. THUS FAR, ALI BELIEVES THAT LACK OF COOPERATION FROM THE FRONTIER GOVERNMENTS HAS MADE EFFECTIVE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION DIFFICULT. WHILE HOPING THAT COOPERATION WITH THOSE GOVERNMENTS WOULD IMPROVE, HE DID NOT SEEM TO FEEL IT WOULD BE SOON.

5. PAKISTAN AID CONSORTIUM. I MENTIONED TO ALI OUR PROPOSAL TO SUGGEST AN INTEGRATED NWFP DEVELOPMENT PLAN AT THIS JUNE'S MEETING OF THE CONSORTIUM. RAOOF ALI AGREED SUCH A PLAN WAS NEEDED TO OBTAIN DONOR COUNTRY SUPPORT, AND SAID THAT HE WOULD WORK TO HAVE HIS OWN GOVERNMENT MAKE AN APPROPRIATE PROPOSAL AT THE MEETING.

6. REGIONAL COOPERATION. CHAIRMAN ALI WAS NOT ENCOURAGING WHEN RESPONDING TO MY QUESTION ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION. HE STATED REAL PROGRESS AGAINST OPIUM CULTIVATION REQUIRED COORDINATED ACTION BY BOTH PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN. OTHERWISE, ALI OBSERVED, ANY REDUCTION IN ONE COUNTRY'S PRODUCTION WILL SIMPLY BE REPLACED BY AN INCREASE IN ITS NEIGHBOR'S CROP. HE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT KABUL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ANTI-

POPPY CULTIVATION MEASURES FOR AT LEAST TEN YEARS BECAUSE OF ITS INABILITY TO CONTROL SIGNIFICANT AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. ALI REMINDED ME THAT THE GOP HAD OFFERED TO ASSIST AFGHANISTAN WITH TRAINING AND BORDER CONTROL MEASURES, BUT THAT KABUL HAD BEEN UNRESPONSIVE.

7. US ASSISTANCE IN DEMAND REDUCTION. CHAIRMAN ALI DESCRIBED PAKISTAN'S GROWING DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY AMONG URBAN YOUTH. HE NOTED THAT THE TWO GOP TREATMENT CLINICS (KARACHI AND HYDERBAD) WERE RUDIMENTARY AND PROVIDED FOR NO OUTPATIENT FOLLOW-UP. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE US COULD BE HELPFUL, ALI SAID THAT TECH-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 02599

FROM M. FALCO

NICAL ASSISTANCE IN PREVENTIVE EDUCATION WOULD BE PARTICULARLY WELCOME. HE AGREED TO HAVE A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS SPRING DURING DR BOURNE'S AND MY VISIT TO PAKISTAN. VANDEN HEUVEL

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